Michael S. Steele
Lieutenant Governor

Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr. Governor **Christopher J. McCabe** Secretary

Press Release

Contact: William Treger 410-767-7758

Office of Home Energy Programs Announces Public Hearing Dates

(June 3, 2004) – The Maryland Department of Human Resources has announced its public hearing schedule for the Maryland Energy Assistance Program (MEAP) proposed annual state plan for the 2005 program year. Two public hearings are scheduled, one on June 24, 2004, in Salisbury, MD, and the other on June 29, 2004, in Baltimore City.

The MEAP anticipates serving 82,000 families with an average annual benefit of \$332, totaling \$28.3 million dollars. The proposed annual state plan is posted on DHR's web site at www.dhr.state.md.us/meap.

"We welcome and encourage full participation in our public hearing process," says DHR Secretary Christopher J. McCabe. "Our aim is to make our energy assistance programs work for everyone. To do that, we want to hear from families, individuals, and members of the community involved in the process, as we continue our work on final program plan development."

Those who wish to comment on the program may also send written comments to Mary Lou Kueffer, Director of the Office of Home Energy Programs at

Page 2 Communications Office

311 West Saratoga Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21201-3521, Room 214. The deadline for receiving written comments is July 9, 2004.

The public hearing schedule is as follows:

June 24, 2004

Shore Up, Inc., Wicomico County 11:00AM – 1:00PM 520 Snow Hill Road Salisbury, MD 21803-0430 Contact: Helena Brown 410-749-1142 ext. 302

June 29, 2004

Baltimore City Department of Housing and Community Development Human Services Division 10:00AM – 12:00PM 2700 N. Charles Street Conference Room 205 Baltimore, Maryland 21218 Contact: Charles Fowlkes (410) 396-6731